

# Article Retraction

This article has been retracted at the request of Mark Burgman, the Editor-in-Chief of Conservation Biology. Unfortunately it has been found out that Goodluck Peter Massawe from Tanzania wildlife research institute, as the corresponding author and his co-authors; Liseki, S.D.; Marealle, W.N.. in their published article as “Urban expansion as a driver of biodiversity loss: Integrating biodiversity in urban planning in African context” was published at the International Journal of Human Capital in Urban Management in Urban Management (IJHCUM) have largely copied from an article which has been recently published in Conservation Biology (Kylie Soanes; Michael Sievers; Yung En Chee; Nicholas S. G. Williams; Manisha Bhardwaj; Adrian J. Marshall; Kirsten M. Parri, 2018: Correcting common misconceptions to inspire conservation action in urban environments) without proper cross-referencing, permission and justification. The scientific community takes a very strong view in this matter and apologies are offered to readers of IJHCUM.

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## Conservation Biology

Essay

### Correcting common misconceptions to inspire conservation action in urban environments

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**Abstract:** Despite repeated calls to action, proposals for urban conservation are often met with surprise or scepticism. There remains a pervasive narrative in policy, practice, and the public psyche that urban environments, although useful for engaging people with nature or providing ecosystem services, are of little conservation value. We argue that the tendency to overlook the conservation value of urban environments stems from misconceptions about the ability of native species to persist within cities and towns and that this, in turn, hinders effective conservation action. However, recent scientific evidence shows that these assumptions do not always hold. Although it is generally true that increasing the size, quality, and connectivity of habitat patches will improve the probability that a species can persist, the inverse is not that small, degraded, or fragmented habitats found in urban environments are worthless. In light of these findings we propose updated messages that guide and inspire researchers, practitioners, and decision makers to undertake conservation action in urban environments: consider small spaces, recognize unconventional habitats, test creative solutions, and use science to minimize the impacts of future urban development.

**Keywords:** cities, conservation policy, novel habitats, patch size, urban biodiversity, urban conservation, urban green space

Corrección de Ideas Erróneas para Inspirar Acciones de Conservación en Ambientes Urbanos

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308

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#### REVIEW PAPER

### Urban expansion as a driver of biodiversity loss: Integrating biodiversity in urban planning in African context

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#### ABSTRACT

Africa has high biodiversity and is rapidly urbanizing. However, there is limited understanding of how urban expansion in Africa is likely to affect its habitats and biodiversity. Little urban ecological research has been done in Africa. This study needs to think ahead as Africa move into the “urban age” it is critical to inform the public on the importance of urban environment and to justify the need to preserve these areas. The conservation value of urban environments stems should not be overlooked. Cities represent considerable opportunities for forwarding global biodiversity and sustainability goals. However, recent scientific evidence shows that these assumptions do not always hold. Although it is generally true that increasing the size, quality, and connectivity of habitat patches will improve the probability that a species can persist, the inverse is not that small, degraded, or fragmented habitats found in urban environments are worthless. In this study an updated messages that guide and inspire researchers, practitioners, and decision makers to undertake conservation action of African urban environments is proposed: considering small spaces, recognize the value of integrating biodiversity in African cities, test creative solutions, and use ecological knowledge to minimize the impacts of future urban development in African biodiversity.

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